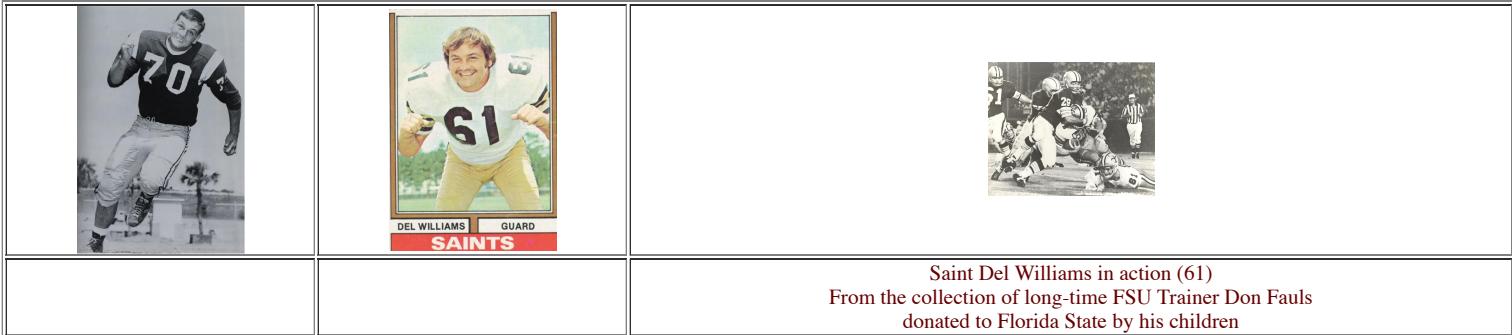


Del Williams

Full Name: Delano Roger Williams
Born: November 9, 1945 in Live Oak, FL
Died: November 28, 1984 in Slidell, La
School: Suwannee High School in Live Oak, Florida

Click On Photo To Enlarge



FSU Career

Football

Year	No	Pos	Hgt	Wgt	C1	Ltr	Hometown
1964	70	T	6-2	229	So	*	Live Oak
1965	70	OT	6-2	230	Jr	*	Live Oak
1966	70	OG	6-2	237	Sr	*	Live Oak



Awards

Football

Year Award

1966 Associated Press - 2nd Team All-American
 Newspaper Enterprises Association - 2nd Team All-American
 United Press International - 2nd Team All-American

Elected into the FSU Hall of Fame in 1982

His big number 70 cleared a path for Seminole backs for three years, 1964-1966. For two years the Live Oak native played tackle, switching to guard in 1966. Del Williams played in the Gator and Sun Bowls and following his final season, played in the Coaches' All-American game. He also became the first Seminole picked to play in the East-West Shrine game. In 1966 Del Williams was awarded the Tallahassee Quarterback Club's trophy as most valuable Seminole gridder. That season he was named second team All-American by NEA, UPI, and AP. In his senior year, Miami Herald sports editor Edwin Pope wrote of Del, "He is one of the best pulling guards I have ever seen." After graduation, Williams started at guard, tackle, and center from 1967 to 1973 for the New Orleans Saints. In the trenches where the game is decided, no one in Garnet and Gold has made his mark with greater ability and dedication than Del Williams.

Obituary for Del Williams
 From the Tallahassee Democrat
 By Bill McGrotha
 November 29, 1984

Del Williams, one of the great players of Florida State football history, died Wednesday morning after a year's battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis - "Lou Gehrig's Disease."

He died at age 39 in Slidell, La., where he lived during several outstanding seasons as an offensive lineman for the New Orleans Saints, and where he owned a thriving automobile business.

A Live Oak native, Williams was the only sophomore to start every game during Florida State's celebrated 1964 season that saw the Seminoles beat Florida for the first time. That team holds a 20th annual reunion here this weekend.

An offensive tackle, he was chosen to the All-American second team of The Associated Press during his senior year. A member of the original Saints, he played all five offensive-line positions at one time or another for the NFL team. During his years with the Saints, the popular Williams returned to Tallahassee for a period and was in business here.

After retirement from the Saints, he entered business in Slidell. He also did football play-by-play for the New Orleans Breakers of the USFL and for Tulane University.

One of the best known and liked of former Florida State players, Williams had played high-school ball on a championship team under Gene Cox, the Leon coach, at Live Oak.

Earlier this year, Williams came in a wheelchair to Live Oak for a last reunion with old teammates, schoolmates and coaches.

The disease that struck down Lou Gehrig, the famed first baseman of the New York Yankees, hit Williams late last season. Like Gehrig, Williams seemed among the biggest and strongest of men. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis - an insidious disease, according to the book - is rare. Its cause is unknown. It is characterized by progressive deterioration of affected areas, but the senses are not impaired.

The disease is usually fatal within two to six years. Williams' time was shorter.

With Williams, it apparently started in the summer of '83. The little finger on his left hand started to droop. It seemed like nothing. Then it worsened. In October, he saw a neurologist, but it was not until last February that his affliction was diagnosed by the Mayo Clinic.

"Sometimes the challenges are pretty steep," Williams said after learning of the diagnosis. "And no one has promised tomorrow."

"They told me it hits one man in a million. It happened to be my number that came up."

He said those words matter of factly, even cheerfully. Saying he had put his problem into the hands of the Lord, and that it was the only way to go, he remained uncommonly cheerful as the paralysis spread.

One of the early moves Williams mad after learning of his illness was to visit Florida State. He walked into the office of Athletic Director Hootie Ingram, introduced himself, told him of the circumstances and made quiet arrangements to endow a scholarship.

Bobby Bowden became close to Williams when he was an assistant with the Seminoles in '64.

"The last time I saw Del was last August," said Florida State's head coach. "He was lying in a van, had been to Live Oak and was returning to Slidell. He could talk only a little then."

"But there was that old smile."

Williams once said the first indoor plumbing he knew came when he enrolled at Florida State.

"I remember going to Live Oak to make a speech, and Del went along," said Bowden. "That was when we got kinda close. After the speech, he took me to his house, and he lived way back there, in a cabin with his grandmother. It was just real nice. Modest, but real nice."

"I tell you what Del was like - just a big, strong compassionate guy, that's what he was."

"He probably had as much courage as anybody I ever saw on the football field. He was tenderhearted off the field, but out on that field he would work you over, wear you out and bury you. He was afraid of nothing."

The week prior to the South Carolina game Del's brother Al wrote a lengthy letter to Bowden. At this point, the only way Del could communicate was with a pencil in his mouth that enabled him to spell out words on a child's toy. He sent a message to the Seminoles wishing the well, and particularly urged the offensive line to do its best. Bowden read portions of the letter to the squad.

Gene Cox recalled the Del Williams that played for him.

"Among the things I remember was that he used to play football all afternoon," said Cox, "and then go home and plow."

Williams talked earlier this year, after full realization of his situation, of having everything anyone could want.

When just two years ago he was inducted into Florida State's Athletic Hall of Fame at a dinner that was not formal, the proud Williams showed up in a tuxedo.

Williams also had talked of not having so much growing up.

"But we had love and companionship," he said, "and every time the Rosemary Baptist Church opened its doors we were there."

On Saturday the doors of Rosemary Baptist Church open one last time for Del Williams.

The funeral is at 11 a.m.

FSU Statistics

Football

Season Statistics

Year	GP	Tackles			Sacks			Fumble			Pass Defense			Blkd kick	PAT Attempts			fg	saf	dpx	td	pts	
		ua	a	Tot	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds-td	int-yds-td	qbh	brup	0-0	0-0	0-0	kick	rsh	rcv						
1964		0	0	0	0.0-	0	0.0-	0	0	-	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	0
1965		0	0	0	0.0-	0	0.0-	0	0	-	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	0
1966		0	0	0	0.0-	0	0.0-	0	0	-	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Tot	0	0	0	0	0.0-	0	0.0-	0	0	-	0-0	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	0

Tot	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0-	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
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Pro Career**Football**

Height: 6-2 Weight: 245
 Drafted: 1967, 3rd Round #79, New Orleans Saints, C
 Debut: September 17, 1967



Year	Abbr	Team	No	Pos
1967	NO	New Orleans Saints	61	OG
1968	NO	New Orleans Saints	61	OG
1969	NO	New Orleans Saints	61	OG
1970	NO	New Orleans Saints	61	OG
1971	NO	New Orleans Saints	61	OG
1972	NO	New Orleans Saints	61	OG
1973	NO	New Orleans Saints	61	OG

Pro Statistics**Football****Offensive Statistics**

Year	Team	GP	GS
1967	NO	14	0
1968	NO	14	0
1969	NO	14	0
1970	NO	14	0
1971	NO	14	0
1972	NO	8	0
1973	NO	14	0
7 Years		92	0